



National Finance Center Customer Notification

Date: December 17, 2010

Subject: National Finance Center Update z/OS Operating System Upgrade

Database/Customer(s) Affected: All Mainframe Related Applications

Dear Customer:

This notification is to inform you of the following changes to the testing schedule for the National Finance Center's (NFC) z/OS 1.11 mainframe operating system upgrade. As a result of issues uncovered during the testing on December 4, 2010, and December 18, 2010, NFC has modified the schedule for implementing the operating system upgrade.

NFC is in the process of upgrading its mainframe operating system from z/OS 1.9 to z/OS 1.11. In an effort to make this upgrade as smooth as possible, we are asking for your participation in the system testing on Saturday, January 29, 2011. Additional testing, if required, will take place on Saturday, February 12, 2011. Testing is scheduled to start at approximately 12:00 noon CST and end by 6:00 p.m. CST on both January 29, 2011, and February 12, 2011, if necessary. Any data entry performed during these test periods will be applied to the production database.

Since the z/OS 1.11 will interface with every mainframe application, it is important that all applications be tested thoroughly prior to implementation. Testing by each agency participant should consist of performing normal workday functions related to the applications and data residing on the mainframe.

If your agency will be able to participate, please provide the name, email address, and phone number of your representative(s) to Customer.Support@usda.gov by Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Once a list is compiled, further information will be sent to each of the representatives.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact NFC's Client Management Branch at Customer.Support@usda.gov.

KJS/M5-11-031/044

Tip of the Week

As we approach the end of the 2010 Leave Year, we encourage all agencies to remind employees to monitor their leave balances and plan appropriately regarding use-or-lose, compensatory time, religious observance, etc.